CROP and BUSINESS CONDITIONS

NINTH
FEDERAL RESERVE
DISTRICT



MINNEAPOLIS MAY 27 1921

76th Report of the Federal Reserve Agent at Minneapolis to the Federal Reserve Board

SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH

Agricultural prospects are very promising. Seeding took place ten days earlier than last year and wheat and rye appear to be in excellent condition as is usually true at this time of the year. Recently the weather has been cool and wet but without damage to the growing crop. Range conditions are excellent for live stock and live stock mortality has been much less than the ten year average and much less than last year. The movement of grains and live stock to market has been much less than in the preceding month. Live stock receipts were fully 20 per cent below a year ago while grain receipts and grain stocks in Minneapolis and Duluth were 10 per cent greater than a year ago.

In the important industries of the district gains and losses in volume appear to be equally numerous in relation to the previous month. There were substantial declines in copper mining, and linseed production, while iron ore shipments were running substantially less than a year ago. Postal receipts declined. There was a slight improvement in flour production and shipments, and in retail trade; and a substantial improvement in the lumber cut, shipped, and sold at retail. When compared with a year ago both mining and lumber were much less in physical volume but there was a substantial increase in milling production and flour shipments.

The cutlook for satisfactory housing accommodation is very promising. Building permits in April nearly doubled both in number and value as compared with March and were substantially larger than in April a year ago. The reductions that have been made in costs of some building materials and labor are reflected in the decline in average valuation of the permits granted. There appears to be an increasing willingness to initiate projects for home

purposes with each decline in costs. Unemployment conditions have also been working rapidly in the direction of reducing the effective demand for housing.

Prices declined during the month. There were substantial declines in median prices of all the grains. A majority of the median prices for live stock at wholesale declined. There were more declines than increases in the prices of wholesale produce. Average retail prices for food declined during the month. The cost of living, measured by all articles, including food, was reduced slightly. The reduction in prices was reflected in the flow of Federal Reserve Notes to this bank for redemption and retirement, as many of the notes are no longer needed in retail trade and wage payrolls. The increasing retirements reflect the changes that are taking place in money values of services and commodities.

Credit conditions did not improve locally. During the month member banks experienced withdrawals of deposits, while the Federal Reserve Bank lost in reserves and expanded its loans. Rediscounting with other Federal Reserve Banks was necessary in order to meet the demands from the agricultural sections. Interest rates declined fractionally in the local market and at the Federal Reserve Bank. Loans of representative city banks are about 20 per cent less than a year ago with reductions reported for all kinds of borrowers except country banks which are financing agriculture. Local investment houses report a sustained demand for securities with increases in municipal bonds and corporation obligations, but declines in farm mortgage sales. The confidence of the investing public is much better than a month ago.

The volume of payments made through banks in the month of April was slightly greater than in the preceding month. These payments increased 6

per cent which was greater than the increase between the same months a year ago. About one-third of the total increase for the district is due to the opening of navigation on the Great Lakes with increased trade at the Lake ports. Navigation opened earlier this year than last and resulted in a movement of coal cargoes to the head of the lakes very much greater than took place a year ago.

The number of unemployed persons has increased but there are indications that a satisfactory readjustment is now taking place. Although the number of unemployed increased in April, there was also a promising increase in the number of openings available for absorbing the surplus. A shifting from one industry or occupation to another is probably under way.

Business failures were greater in number but less in liabilities when compared with the preceding month and with a year ago.

General Business Conditions

Changes in the money volume of business are reflected in the quantity of Federal Reserve notes outstanding. As these notes are used freely in making up wage payrolls, in effecting retail sales, and in making deposits and withdrawals in banks, the volume outstanding and in use would fluctuate according to changes in the price level of commodities and in the number of commodities bought and sold. Owing to the fact that these notes have been designed to be elastic any surplus not needed by the business community is promptly retired. The net amount of notes of this bank returned and retired by us between April 1 and May 4 amounted to \$2,700,000 and between May 4 and May 18. \$2,600,000. It is evident that the retirement is proceeding more rapidly in May than in April,

although some of this increase in redemptions and retirement may be due to notes coming out of hoarding because of the improved state of public confidence, or to notes returning from points outside of the United States. Our estimates indicate that the net amount of such notes returned through banking channels to this district from Canada between March 15 and April 30 totaled about \$300,000.

The trend of business activity as reflected by our net amount of Federal Reserve notes outstanding is shown in Chart No. A covering the period from January 1, 1916, to the latest available date. According to the curve shown in this chart we are rapidly approaching the conditions of the year 1918. The decline during the early part of this year has been much more rapid than the seasonal movement exhibited in the early part of 1919 and 1920.

The Volume of Business

Payments through banks in the twelve most important cities in this district for the four weeks ending April 27 increased 6 per cent over payments for the four weeks ending March 30, but were 24 per cent less than during the corresponding period in 1920. This increase between March and April in the total volume of business transactions as indicated by payments through banks is a normal spring occurrence. In 1920 the increase was 3 per cent as compared with the 6 per cent increase this year. As a matter of fact, the physical volume of business did not decline as much as 24 per cent between April of this year and the corresponding month a year ago. The volume of payments through banks is determined not only by the number and scope of business transactions, but also by the prices at which the transactions are accomplished. As prices have been declining, the physical volume of business done in April, 1921, did not decline as much as 24 per cent in comparison with 1920. The figures, omitting thousands, are shown in Table No. 1.

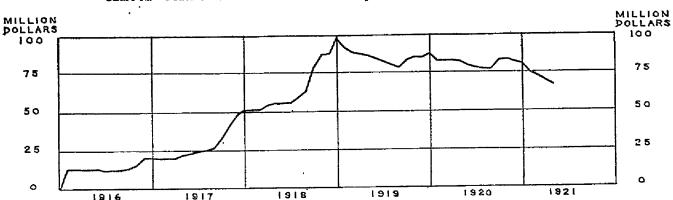


Chart A .- Federal Reserve Notes of the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank Outstanding

Table No. 1 4 Weeks Ending Apr. 27, 1921	4 Weeks Ending Mar. 30, 1921	Percent April 27th of March 30th	4 Weeks Ending Apr. 28, 1920	Percent April 1921 of April, 1920	4 Weeks Ending Mar. 31, 1920	Percent April 1920 of March, 1920
Aberdeen	\$ 5,605 6,343	92.8 110.2	\$ 7,184 10,232	72. 4 68.3	\$ 7,176 9,587	100.1 106.7
Duluth 61,751	51,614	119.6	80,518	76.7	63,109	127.6
Fargo 10,141	9,783	103.6	14,292	70.9	12,409	115.0
Grand Forks 4,565	4,522	101.0	7,965	57.3	7,178	110.9
Great Falls 6,749	6,925	97.5	8,175	82.5	8,734	93.7
Helena 8,198	8,331	98.4	9,580	85.5	10,318	92.9
Minneapolis	252,421	105.5	338,974	78.6	317,612	106.8
St. Paul	104,305	107.2	151,278	73.8	164,720	92.0
Sioux Falls	18,219	90.2	27,578	59.7	34,637	79.6
Superior 7,971	7.487	106.5	8,620	92.5	8,107	106.3
Winona 4,112	4,000	102.8	5,591	73.5	5,151	108.5
Total\$510,265	\$479,555	106.4	\$669,987	76.2	\$648,738	103.2

The total value of business transactions from the first of the year to April 27th has been about 22 per cent below that of the corresponding period of 1920 as measured by payments through banks in the twelve cities of our district which report to us. The figures reported are for 1921, \$2,210,766,000, and for 1920, up to and including April 28, \$2,817,070,000.

Crop Conditions

Plowing and seeding were about ten days further advanced this year than the normal condition on May 1. Spring wheat planting has been completed in Minnesota and North and South Dakota, and the small grains are being seeded rapidly. Plowing for and seeding of corn is progressing nicely in Minnesota and South Dakota. Montana seeding was about finished on May 15th. Planting of potatoes and sugar beets is continuing under the most favorable conditions and all indications now point to an increased acreage. Seed potatoes are abundant and very cheap, especially in South Dakota. While the recent cool weather has retarded the growth of grains somewhat it has caused no damage, and a number of fields seeded early are well above ground. The recent rains were particularly appreciated by sections of Montana where it was thought irrigation would be necessary to insure a crop. It is reported that they have moisture now in sufficient quantity to carry the crops through until the arrival of the June rains.

On the whole, winter wheat and rye are in excellent condition for this time of year. Minnesota has abandoned 9.3 per cent of her acreage for winter wheat; Montana 21 per cent, and South Dakota, 10 per cent. There has been some loss in Minnesota from alternate freezing and thawing, and some in Montana from the dry conditions of last fall and early spring. Cutworms made their appearance in the north central and central parts of Montana late in April and have caused some damage. The wheat which remains to be harvested, however, has an

excellent stand, and from all estimates will yield a greater number of bushels than the production of last year, even though the acreage is somewhat reduced. What is true of winter wheat in this district is equally true of rye. The outstanding feature of the rye report is the shrinking acreage in North Dakota. In 1919 North Dakota harvested 1,945,-000 acres of rye and in 1920 934,000 acres, while in 1921 the acreage to be harvested is but 616,000 This great reduction is due to the hopper menace which has destroyed many acres of crops in North Dakota during recent years. The condition of rye is above the average in North Dakota, ranging from fair in the western counties to very promising in the eastern, according to the Department of Agriculture report of May 9th. Table No. 2 gives the government estimate of the production of rye and winter wheat in 1921 compared with the actual production in 1920.

Table No. 2

	Production 1921 Bushels	Production 1920 Bushels
Minnesota	•	1,176,000 3,900,000
North Dakota	938,000	812,000
Total	6,505,511	5,888,000
RYE		
Minnesota Montana North Dakota South Dakota	9,409,400 1,126,000 9,240,000 5,096,000	8,160,000 880,000 9,340,000 4,320,000

WINTER WHEAT

It is interesting to note that in 1920 four states within the Ninth Federal Reserve District produced 95 per cent of the flax, 67 per cent of the spring wheat, 37 per cent of the barley, and 25 per cent of the rye produced in the entire United States.

22,700,000

Total24,871,400

Grain Movement

The total of all grains received at Minneapolis and Duluth during April, 1921, was 13,762,255 bushels, representing a decrease of 7 per cent from March receipts but an increase of 11 per cent over April a year ago. The decrease from March was caused by declines in receipts of corn, oats, and barley, which were 36, 33 and 60 per cent respectively of March receipts. Wheat, rye, and flax on the other hand exhibited substantial increases. The receipts of wheat alone in April were about 10 million bushels, which is 22 per cent larger than the March figure, and 31 per cent more than wheat receipts in April, 1920. Shipments of grain were one-third larger in April than in March, but fell 17 per cent behind shipments in April, 1920. The combined Minneapolis and Duluth receipts and shipments are given in Table No. 3.

Table No. 3	April,	March.	April,
Receipts	1921	1921	1920
•	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	10,097,912	8,295,991	7,689,791
Corn	654,864	1,840,601	546,130
Oats	764,595	2,323,074	1,103,950
Barley	700,679	1,163,822	814,679
Rye	967,273	731,508	1,896,853
Flax	576,932	467,877	274,804
Total	13,762,255	14,822,873	12,326,207
Shipments			
Wheat	7,334,550	4,987,839	4,437,060
Corn	1,434,571	1,154,163	398,500
Oats	1,077,549	1,105,485	1,606,224
Barley	881,803	877,884	1,038,119
Rye	1.026,571	624,208	6,929,460
Flax	256,825	112,154	49,380
Total	12,011,869	8,861,733	14,458,743

Minneapolis receipts of all grains for the month of April were 9,608,800 bushels or 20 per cent less than receipts in March but 6 per cent greater than the receipts of April a year ago. Total shipments of all grains from Minneapolis in April were less than shipments during March and somewhat less than shipments during April a year ago.

Duluth receipts and shipments of grain were larger in April than in March, owing to the opening of navigation on the Great Lakes.

Total stocks of all grains in Minneapolis and Duluth terminal elevators on April 30 amounted to 22,437,334 bushels, which was 15 per cent less than stocks at the close of March but 15 per cent larger than stocks on the last day of April a year ago. The decrease in stocks between March 31 and April 30 was due principally to declines in wheat and corn. The increase between April 30, 1921, and the same date in 1920 was due to a phenomenal increase in oats, and flax, although wheat stocks between these two dates declined 56 per cent and rye nearly 95 per cent. Figures for stocks in bushels with our computations of percentage of change are given in Table No. 4.

Table No. 4			
	April,	March.	April.
	1921	1921	April, 1920
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	4,087,564	6,630,650	9,319,770
Corn	410,055	1,366,712	79,255
Oats	14.069.675	14,277,089	2,141,323
Barley	939,967	1,177,953	837,130
Rye		369,869	7.066,337
Flax		2,749,975	151,776
Total	22,437,334	26,572,248	19,595,591

Range Conditions

Livestock is in excellent condition on the ranges in the Ninth Federal Reserve District. The moderate winter, the early spring, and the frequent rainfalls have produced a general surplus of feed and a healthy condition of the animals, which is considerably above normal.

The losses in livestock from disease and exposure during the year ending April 1, 1921, were much less than the losses during the year ending April 1, 1920. When comparing the losses with the 10-year average, it appears that 1921 is a year of low mortality for every class of livestock except lambs in Montana and South Dakota, and sheep in South Dakota. These losses in sheep and lambs for the year 1920-21 occurred largely in the months of May and June, 1920, as a result of the preceding severe winter. The United States Department of Agriculture has prepared tables showing by states the loss per thousand for 1921, 1920, and the 10-year average.

Our Montana Branch reports that the general movement of cattle to the forest ranges where snow and moisture have been plentiful began about May 1. Live stock is in excellent condition with abundant feed, and the ranges are becoming green. The government report for Montana states that on May 1, the condition of the cattle is estimated at 98 per cent of normal as compared with 72 per cent last year, and a five-year average of 96 per cent. Swine show a condition of 98 per cent of normal as compared with 89 per cent last year and 97.2 per cent for a five-year average. These conditions are paralleled in the other states of the district.

Live Stock Marketing

April was a dull month in the live stock industry as evidenced by the fact that total receipts of all live stock at South St. Paul during April were 32 per cent less than receipts during March, while shipments were only 48 per cent of the March figure. The shipment of feeders from South St. Paul was 28 per cent below the March figure. As compared with April of last year, receipts and shipments of all classes of live stock showed declines of nearly 20 per cent.

The April movement of sheep was extremely light, due to the fact that the seasonal marketing of sheep was practically completed earlier in the

spring. Receipts of sheep during April were 7,621 head, which was about 17 per cent of the March receipts, while shipments were 1,201 head, which was but 4 per cent of the March figure. Shipments of feeders also showed a decline, the movement being only 324 head, which was 83 per cent below the March total. Table No. 5 gives the detailed figures for receipts and shipments.

Table No. 5 Total Receipts	April, 1921 Bushels	March, 1921 Bushels	April, 1920 Bushels
Cattle	34,506	49,165	49,305
Calves	29,867	40,325	43,881
Hogs	156,569	208,393	171,962
Sheep	7,621	44,228	9,036
Horses	427	1,313	430
Total Head	228,990	343,424	274.614
Total Cars	3.694	5,127	4,463
Total Shipments		•	•
Cattle	20,593	27.322	31.370
Calves	4,126	5,159	4,214
Hogs	27,476	47.812	25,637
Sheep	1,201	30,018	4,008
Horses	389	1,218	480
77.4-1 113	53,785	111,529	65,709
Total Head	902	1,471	1,298
Total Cars	702	1,711	1,2,70
Shipments of Feeders	15 157	17 920	24.995
Cattle	15,157	17,829	,
Calves	368	487	2,176
Hogs	9,874	15,361	14,367
Sheep	324	1,957	1,382
Total Head	25,723	35,634	42,920

The market for all live stock except lambs was weak during the month owing to the fact that stocks of frozen meats are large. The demand for lambs was due partially to our exports of frozen lamb, a portion of which represented imports during the last four months of 1920 which were re-exported.

Cumulative receipts for the first four months of 1921 were about 4 per cent less than receipts during the same period in 1920, but shipments were 13 per cent stronger than a year ago. The detailed figures are shown in Table No. 6.

Table No. 6 Cumulative Receipts	1921	1920	Percent '21 of '20
Cattle	153,144 131,343	244,560 149,578	68.3 87.9
Hogs	864,817	875,720	98.7
Sheep	142,554 2,912	99,503 3,100	143.2 93.9
Total Head Total Cars		1,352,461 21,645	95.6 86.4

Cumulative Shipment	\$		
Cattle	76,938	105,349	72.9
Calves	13,131	8.280	158.6
Hogs	177.150	153,766	115.2
Sheep	86,753	44.110	196.9
Horses	2,624	2,967	88.5
•			
Total Head	356,596	314,472	113.1
Total Cars	4,548	5,315	85.5

General Price Situation

During the month of April declines in local prices predominated. The prices of grains, live stock and produce, all showed declines in important articles, while the advances were fewer in number and in less important items. Median prices of all cash grains exhibited declines. Very large decreases occurred in three grains, flax which dropped 19 cents, rye 18 cents, and wheat 15 cents; and more moderate declines were exhibited in barley with a drop of 6 cents, oats 51/2 cents, and corn 4 cents per bushel. These median prices furnish an index of conditions prevailing throughout the month and are a means for simplifying the variations due to changes in daily quotations. The median is that price at which the number of bushels sold at a higher price is exactly equal to the number of bushels sold at a lower price. April and March price quotations of all grains compiled from the daily record of cash sales in Minneapolis are presented in Table No. 7.

Between the last of March and the last of April, as exhibited in Table No. 8, flour declined 65 cents per barrel, in sympathy with the decline in the price of wheat.

Table No. 8	Last of	Middle of	Last of
Washburn-Crosby's	March Gold	April	April
Medal Flour, two 9 cotton sacks		\$8.15	\$8.10

Median quotations for cash sales of live stock at South St. Paul Stock Yards exhibited more declines than advances between March and April. Lambs advanced 50 cents while veal calves dropped \$2.00. Hogs were off \$1.59 while butcher steers and stock and feeder steers dropped 75 cents each. Butcher cows and heifers remained unchanged. Table No. 9 gives the quotations.

Wholesale produce prices of 21 important articles in the Minneapolis market indicated 7 decreases, 2 increases, and the remaining prices unchanged in April as compared with March. The decreases were in butter, eggs, cheese, tomatoes, green beans, veal and four-pound hens, while the only increases were in lettuce and celery.

Table No. 7	April 1921 Prices			March 1921 Prices		
· ·	High	Median	Low	High	Median	Low
Cash Wheat No. 1 dark northern	\$1.751/4	\$1.57	\$1.33	\$1.84	\$1.72	\$1.56
Cash Corn No. 3 yellow		.5 [.47	.60	.55	.50
Cash Oats No. 3 white		.33	.311/4	.42 70	.381/2	.34
Cash Barley No. 3		.57 1.24	.50 1.161/5	1.481/3	1.42	134
Cash Rye No. 2		1.58	1.3913	1.86	1.77	i.7 i

Table No. 9	
2 40/10/17	High
Butcher cows and heifers	\$8.25
Butcher steers	8.75
Stock and feeder steers	
Veal calves	
Hogs	9.50
Lambs	12.00

April 1921 Pri	ic es			March 1921 Pri	ices
Median	Low		High	Median	Low
\$5.75	\$3.75		\$8.50	\$ 5.75	\$4.00
7.00	4.75		9.50	7.75	4.50
6.50	3.00		9.25	7.25	2.00
6.50	1.00	•	10.25	8.50	3.00
8.00	6.00		10.50	9.59	8.25
9.50	4.00		10.00	9.00	4.00

Cost of Living

From January 1 to May 1 this year the cost of living in the Ninth Federal Reserve District, as shown by our index number compiled from reports from six leading cities in the district, has dropped 6.4 per cent. That this decline occurred in the early portion of the period is evidenced by the fact that the cost of living on May 1st was only 1.4 per cent below the cost on April 1st. In fact, in St. Paul, Grand Forks and Miles City, the cost of living between April 1st and May 1st exhibited an increase. Table No. 10 shows the detailed figures.

Table No. 10

COS	I OF LIVE	NG	
	May 1	April 1	Jan. 1*
Minneapolis	2,543.61	2,589.07	2,730.46
St. Paul	2,506.90	2,476.95	2,582.81
Duluth	2,336.64	2,480.12	2,650.35
Grand Forks		2,405.28	2,690.19
Helena		2,515.20	2,630.69
Miles City	2,302.96	2,249.92	2,368.22

An analysis of the cost of food between January 1st and May 1st shows the fact that the prices of food used by the average family have declined 10.4 per cent. Between April 1st and May 1st the decline was 2.8 per cent. St. Paul and Grand Forks exhibited increases in food prices between April 1st and May 1st. The figures are detailed in Table No. 11.

Table No. 11

	FOOD		
	May 1	April 1	Jan. 1
Minneapolis	717.24	746.16	783.84
St. Paul	689.40	676.32	748.80
Duluth	706.32	761.40	864.60
Grand Forks	703.08	663.60	803.76
Helena	658.80	7 6 2.60	893.52
Miles City	723.12	764.88	877.44
District	705.95	725.15	786.51

Care must be exercised in interpreting the changes for the different cities. Possibly some of the differences may be due to variations in the quality of goods quoted in the different cities, although the article quoted has been the same in each succeeding month in the city where used.

The index number was conceived as the actual yearly cost of living for a family of three. Quotations have been secured for the price of twenty food articles, fifteen items of clothing for the winter six

months, and thirteen for the summer six months, and the cost of housing, heat, light and gas. The items have been weighted according to their importance in the average family budget and weights have been included for furniture, and miscellaneous expense to cover such costs as insurance, medical treatment, amusement and savings. These latter costs do not fluctuate and have been included merely to prevent the variations in the cost of food and clothing from affecting the index number in too great a degree. The percentages of each item of expense correspond closely with the experience of about 100 families to whose budgets we have had access.

Building Operations

Projected building operations in nine important cities of this district, when measured by the number of permits and valuation, increased in April as compared with March. The increase in the number of permits was 75 per cent and in valuation about 114 per cent. All of the cities experienced increases in the number of building permits except Missoula, which was the same as in March. The valuation of permits increased in April over the March figure in 7 cities, while Missoula and Great Falls showed Comparing the permits for building decreases. operations in April, 1921, with April, 1920, it appears that both in number and in valuation the 1921 building volume was larger than in 1920. The number of permits in April, 1921, was 56 per cent above the number in April, 1920, and the valuation of permits was about 25 per cent over the 1920 valuation.

A summary of the reports received by us from the building departments in the several cities in this district, with our computation of percentage of change, is shown in Table No. 12.

A closer analysis of the reports shows that the valuation of the permits given for new construction in April was 10 per cent more in proportion to the total than the average proportion during the 11 months from June 1, 1920, to April 30, 1921. The valuation of permits for new construction in April was about 90 per cent of the total valuation as compared with the average of about 81 per cent, while the number of permits for new construction in April was more than 65 per cent of the total permits issued as compared with 61 per cent as the average for the preceding 11 months.

The average permit for April, 1921, was \$2,683 as compared with an average permit of \$3,386 for the 11 months from June, 1920, to April, 1921,

Table No. 12	No. of Permits April,	No. of Permits March.	Percent April of	No. of Permits April,	Percent April, 1921 of April,	No. for New Con-	No. for Repairs and
	1920	1921	March	1920	1920	struction	Alterations
Minneapolis	1,459	935	155.9 195.8	903 406	161.5 179.9	883 610	576 120
St. Paul	730 346	373 161	214.9	269	128.6	164	182
Duluth	·	24	341.7	61	134.2	64	18
Fargo		53	103.9	60	91.6	50	Ť
Superior	4 4 4	46	289.1	87	153.0	78	55
Missoula		17	100.0	22	77.4	9	8
Great Falls		25	160.0	21	190.5	15	25
Grand Forks Helena	•••;	····;	120.0	6	100.0	4	····ż
Total	2,868	1,639	175.0	1,835	156.3	1,877	991
Valuation	Valuation			Perc	ent		
of	of	Percent	Valuatio				Valuation
Permits	Permits	April	of Permi			uation	for Repairs
				Λ	بمة اذ.		
April,	March,	of	April,			New	and
	March, 1921	March	1920	192	20 Cons	truction	Alterations
April, 1921	1921 \$1,362,540	March 133.1	1920 \$2,234,9	192 05 81	20 Const	truction 25,290	Alterations \$290,065
April, 1921 Minneapolis	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264	March 133.1 363.0	1920 \$2,234,99 653,41	192 05 81 19 435	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 .0 2,7	truction 25,290 26,316	Alterations \$290,065 116,270
April, 1921 Minneapolis\$1,815,355 St. Paul2,842,586 Duluth398,455	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264 138,231	March 133.1 363.0 287.8	1920 \$2,234,9 653,41 532,00	192 05 81 19 435 00 74	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 .0 2,7 1.4 2	truction 25,290 26,316 91,105	Alterations \$290,065 116,270 107,350
April, 1921 Minneapolis \$1,815,355 St. Paul 2,842,586 Duluth 398,455 Fargo 295,830	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264 138,231 131,230	March 133.1 363.0 287.8 225.4	1920 \$2,234,9 653,41 532,0 236,5	192 05 81 19 435 00 74 00 125	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 1.0 2,7 1.4 2	truction 25,290 26,316 91,105 72,970	Alterations \$290,065 116,270 107,350 22,860
April, 1921 Minneapolis \$1,815,355 St. Paul 2,842,586 Duluth 398,455 Fargo 295,830 Sioux Falls 113,275	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264 138,231 131,230 89,425	March 133.1 363.0 287.8 225.4 126.9	1920 \$2,234,9 653,4 532,0 236,50 230,12	193 05 81 19 435 00 74 00 125 25 49	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 .0 2,7 1.4 2 .1 2	truction 25,290 26,316 91,105 72,970 09,250	Alterations \$290,065 116,270 107,350 22,860 4,025
April, 1921 Minneapolis \$1,815,355 St. Paul 2,842,586 Duluth 398,455 Fargo 295,830 Sioux Falls 113,275 Superior 95,780	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264 138,231 131,230 89,425 52,195	March 133.1 363.0 287.8 225.4 126.9 183.9	1920 \$2,234,9 653,4 532,0 236,5 230,12 140,54	193 05 81 19 435 00 74 00 125 25 49	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 .0 2,7 1.4 2 2 2.3 1	truction 25,290 26,316 91,105 72,970 09,250 77,677	\$290,065 116,270 107,350 22,860 4,025 18,103
April, 1921 Minneapolis \$1,815,355 St. Paul 2,842,586 Duluth 398,455 Fargo 295,830 Sioux Falls 113,275 Superior 95,780 Missoula 20,350	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264 138,231 131,230 89,425 52,195 41,900	March 133.1 363.0 287.8 225.4 126.9 183.9 48.4	1920 \$2,234,9 653,4 532,0 236,5 230,12 140,54	193 05 81 19 435 00 74 00 125 25 49 45 68	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 .0 2,7 1.4 2 .1 2 .3 1 .1	truction 25,290 26,316 91,105 72,970 09,250 77,677 16,600	Alterations \$290,065 116,270 107,350 22,860 4,025 18,103 3,750
April, 1921 Minneapolis \$1,815,355 St. Paul 2,842,586 Duluth 398,455 Fargo 295,830 Sioux Falls 113,275 Superior 95,780 Missoula 20,350 Great Falls 9,480	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264 138,231 131,230 89,425 52,195 41,900 13,506	March 133.1 363.0 287.8 225.4 126.9 183.9 48.4 70.4	1920 \$2,234,9 653,4 532,00 236,50 230,12 140,5 109,10	193 05 81 19 435 00 74 00 125 25 49 45 68 00 18	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 .0 2,7 1.4 2 .1 2 .3 1 .1 .6	truction 25,290 26,316 91,105 72,970 09,250 77,677 16,600 4,045	Alterations \$290,065 116,270 107,350 22,860 4,025 18,103 3,750 5,435
April, 1921 Minneapolis \$1,815,355 St. Paul 2,842,586 Duluth 398,455 Fargo 295,830 Sioux Falls 113,275 Superior 95,780 Missoula 20,350	1921 \$1,362,540 783,264 138,231 131,230 89,425 52,195 41,900	March 133.1 363.0 287.8 225.4 126.9 183.9 48.4	1920 \$2,234,9 653,4 532,0 236,5 230,12 140,54	192 05 81 19 435 00 74 00 125 25 49 45 68 00 18	20 Cons 1.4 \$1,5 .0 2,7 1.4 2 .1 2 .3 1 .1 .6	truction 25,290 26,316 91,105 72,970 09,250 77,677 16,600	Alterations \$290,065 116,270 107,350 22,860 4,025 18,103 3,750

inclusive. The same tendency is shown in analyzing the permits issued for repairs, in which the April average was \$564 and the 11 months' average was \$1,285. Some of this decline in the average valuation is due to reductions in costs of materials and labor.

Total\$5,606,011

A recent survey of building prices conducted by this office showed that the majority of building costs have decreased between May 1, 1920, and May 1, 1921. Lumber prices are down from one-fourth to two-thirds. It appears that rough lumber has declined the least. Steel bars, plates, and shapes were not more than 10 per cent below the 1920 Brick, sand and Portland cement were higher on May 1, 1921, than they were a year ago, according to reports received by us from contractors as to prices paid by them, delivered on the job, which includes transportation costs of all kinds. Comparing building material prices, on May 1, 1921, with 1914 prices, it appears that all prices were above the pre-war level. Steel and common brick were about twice the 1914 figure.

The cost of labor in the building industry dropped 20 per cent in Minnesota on May 1, 1921. There has been some controversy since between union offi-cials and the association of builders as to the amount of wage cut and the conditions of employment, but from present indications, the employers of labor appear to have won their fight and the great majority of members of the building trades are now working on an open shop basis and at the reduced wages.

From an analysis of the want ads in two large Minneapolis daily papers it appears that the housing situation now is not as critical as in May a year ago. There are about 50 per cent more lines of advertising of houses for rent this month than last year at this season and the inquiries resulting from such advertising are not as satisfactory as a year ago.

The Lake Shipping Season Opens at Duluth

The favorable circumstance of opening navigation at the head of the lakes 12 days earlier in 1921 than in 1920 has caused a considerable increase in business activity at Duluth. Payments through banks increased 20 per cent in the 4 weeks ending April 27th over the previous 4 weeks. Grain receipts were 52 per cent larger in April than in March and 27 per cent larger than in April a year ago. Shipments of all grains were nearly 7 times as large in April as in March, although shipments were 18 per cent less than shipments in April, 1920. Receipts of flour at Duluth of more than 200,000 barrels during April were one-third larger than receipts in April a year ago. No flour was received at Duluth during the month of March, 1921. Flour shipments at Duluth in April, 1921, were 200 per cent larger than in March, and 168 per cent larger than in April a year ago. Coal receipts at the head of the lakes were 18 times as large in April, 1921, as in April a year ago.

Coal Shipments and Stocks

In April, 1921, 22 vessels with cargoes of coal arrived at the Duluth-Superior harbor as compared with only 2 vessels in April, 1920. The tonnage received at the head of the lakes was 18 times as large in April, 1921, as in April a year ago. This increase was principally in soft coal receipts, which were 120,000 tons this year as compared with 1,000 tons last year. The figures for coal receipts at Duluth and Superior are given in Table No. 13.

Table No. 13	•		Percent April, 1921
	April, 1921	April, 1920	of April, 1920
	Tons	Ton	
Soft coal	120,212 83,058	1,000 10,000	12,021.2 830.5
Total	203.270	11,000	1.847.9

Stocks of soft coal on hand at industrial plants in this district on May 1, 1921, were less than similar stocks on June 1, 1920, and on April 1, 1919, according to figures compiled by the United States Geological Survey. This condition appears to be a normal result of industrial depression in this district, and a prevailing belief that there will be lower coal prices.

Traffic Through the Soo Canals

Freight tonnage passing through the Canals at Sault Ste. Marie in April, 1921, was 78 per cent greater than the tonnage in April, 1920. This increase was due chiefly to an increase of 432 per cent in the westbound traffic of which the bulk was cargo coal. The east-bound cargoes were principally wheat and other grains. Before May 1st, 8,600,000 bushels of wheat and 7,400,000 bushels of other grains had passed eastward through the Soo Canal. In Table No. 14 is given the detailed report of freight tonnage passing through the Soo Canals.

Table No. 14 East Bound (SH. T). West Bound (SH. T).	April, 1921 518,458 438,673	April, 1920 454,726 82,483	Percent April, 1921 of April, 1920 114.1 531.9
Total	957,131	537,209	177.9

Iron Ore Shipments

Shipments from Upper Lake ports as reported by the M. A. Hanna Company were 176,211 tons in April, 1921, which is 24 per cent less than in April a year ago, although navigation on the Great Lakes opened 12 days earlier this year than last. This decrease in shipments made by water was due to the fact that the iron mining companies do not expect a heavy ore movement this year and consequently the ore companies are not starting out their fleets as early as possible. One company expects that this year's ore shipments will not exceed 50 per cent of the shipments in 1920. The Oliver Iron

Mining Company, a firm controlling approximately 45 per cent of the iron mining in the Lake Superior district, was expected to commence its lake shipments during the second week in May.

Mining Activity

During April the output of the mines in the Ninth Federal Reserve District was greatly curtailed. Copper production in Michigan, owing to the closing of some of the large mines, was only 38 per cent of the March output and 36 per cent of the output in April a year ago. Iron mining in April was 17 per cent below the output in March and 47 per cent below the output in April, 1920, although the shipping season on the Great Lakes, which is the most largely used route for iron ore shipments, opened in April, 12 days earlier than a year ago. Table No. 15 gives the detailed figures for iron and copper mining.

Our representative in Montana reports that very little coal is being mined in that district at the present time. The reports of various coal companies indicate that the most active companies are only operating at 75 per cent of normal capacity, and that some companies only worked two days in April and had no prospects for increased production in May.

Lumber Industry

Reports received direct at this office from a selected list of 15 lumber manufacturers and 15 retail lumber companies indicate that there was an increase in activity in April over March. This fact is evidenced by a 23 per cent increase in lumber cut, a 48 per cent increase in lumber shipped by manufacturers and a 45 per cent increase in retailers' sales. In spite of this improvement, the condition of the lumber industry is still below last year. When the figures for April, 1921, are compared with those of 1920, there is shown a decrease in lumber cut of 37 per cent, in manufacturers' shipments of 47 per cent, in retail sales of 18 per cent, and in retailers' stocks of 27 per cent. Meanwhile, manufacturers' stocks have been increasing. At the end of April, 1921, manufacturers' stocks on hand were about 47 per cent larger than at the end of April a year ago. A summary of the reports received is given in Table No. 16.

Table No. 16			
Manufacturers	April,	March,	April.
(15 companies)	1921	1921	April, 1920
	Board Ft.	Board Ft.	Board Ft.
Lumber cut		14,986,949	29,330,117
Stock on hand	. 205, 152, 215	203,612,750	140,213,790
Shipments	. 14,675,672	9,881,449	27,703,440
Retailers			• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
(15 companies)			
C 1'	10 001 077	7 0/0 153	10 PAA AMA

Milling and Flour Movement

Flour production of mills manufacturing 75 per cent of the flour produced in this district increased 4 per cent in the 5 weeks ending April 30th over the 5 weeks ending March 26th, while the April, 1921, production was 28 per cent larger than the production in April, 1920. The increase locally from 1914 to 1920 in April production as compared with the production in March was in contrast with a decrease of about 4 per cent between April and March shown in the average production of the whole United States over a 6-year period. The reporting mills in this district were operating at about 43 per cent of their capacity during the month of April, 1921. Figures on the flour output in the Ninth Federal Reserve District as reported by the Northwestern Miller, with our computation of percentage of change, are given in Table No. 17.

Table No. 17	Bbls. in	Bbls. in	Bbls. in
	5 Weeks	5 Weeks	5 Weeks
	Ending	Ending	Ending
	Apr. 30th,	Mar. 26th,	May 1st,
	1921	1921	1920
Minneapolis Duluth-Superior St. Paul Outside All Mills	56,260 62,045 873,170	1,237,455 65,775 43,085 874,370 2,220,685	1,116,430 46,045 34,835 616,870 1,814,180

Flour shipments from Minneapolis and Duluth were 2 per cent larger in April than in March, and 35 per cent larger than in April a year ago. Owing to the opening of navigation at Duluth, over 200,-000 barrels of flour were received at that point and shipments from Duluth increased 200 per cent. The total flour movement at Minneapolis and Duluth combined and separately for the two cities is detailed in Table No. 18. The amount of flour exported by Minneapolis mills as reported by the Northwestern Miller, was 3 times as large in April, 1921, as in April, 1920. The total exports from Minneapolis mills for the 8 months beginning with September, 1920, were 50 per cent larger than exports in the 8 months beginning with September, 1919.

Table No. 18

Minneapolis and	April,	March,	April,
Duluth	1921	1921	1920
Receipts (bbls.)	309,880	88,035	213,473
Shipments (bbls.)	1,404,289	1,374,279	1,043,716
Minneapolis Receipts (bbls.) Shipments (bbls.)	98,200 1,264,819	88,035 1,327,769	53,793 991,686
Duluth Receipts (bbls.) Shipments (bbls.)	211,680 139,470	46,510	159,680 52,030

Retail Trade

Retail trade measured in dollars and cents decreased in volume 5.4 per cent in April, 1921, as compared with April, 1920, and the cumulative volume from January 1 to April 30 this year decreased nearly 11 per cent compared with the

same period a year ago. Stocks on hand at the end of April compared with a year ago evidenced a decline of 19 per cent. A slight improvement in April over March is shown by the fact that the turnover is increasing and stocks declining. The index of turnover declined from 395.4 in March to 387.2 in April, while stocks on hand exhibited a 3 per cent decrease.

Business Failures

Business mortality in April, 1921, increased as compared with March and with April, a year ago. The average liabilities of the concerns failing, however, were somewhat smaller. Tentative figures furnished us by R. G. Dun's Review, are shown in Table No. 19. Failures are a better index to past than to present business conditions.

Table No. 19	April,	March,	April,
	1921	1921	1920
Number	39	27	16
Liabilities	\$593,718	\$703,571	\$681,330

Employment Conditions

Information secured from various sources shows that unemployment in the Ninth Federal Reserve District increased in April over March. Reports from 15 lumber manufacturers show a decrease of 5 per cent in employment between March and April. Reports from 29 iron mining companies indicate that there were 6 per cent fewer men employed in April than in March, and reports from the companies mining copper in Michigan show that through the extensive closing of mines only 57 per cent of the men employed in March, 1921, were employed in April. Table No. 20 gives the figures for lumber and mining employment.

Table No. 20	April,	March,	April.
No. of Men Employed	1921	1921	April, 1920
Mining			
Iron	5,938	6,309	9,430
Copper (Mich.)	4,116	7,192	9,833
Lumber Manufacturing	1,874	1,984	2,933

A survey of employment made by the United States Department of Labor through their employment service indicated that on April 30 employment in Minneapolis increased one-tenth of one per cent over the March 31 condition, but in St. Paul between the two dates there was a decrease of 13.7 per cent. In both cities the companies investigated were only those employing more than 500 men each. The Minneapolis figures involve about 12,000 men and the St. Paul figures about 9,000 men. It should be noted in interpreting these figures that the majority of the men employed in Minneapolis and St. Paul are employed by firms with a payroll of less than 500 names.

In the farming districts unemployment is not important. The Department of Labor reports that not more than 1,500 men are idle in North Dakota, and

100 men in South Dakota. A similar condition exists in Montana outside of the mining section.

The tone of employment appears to have been better in April than in March. Positions to be filled listed with the employment agencies of the United States Department of Labor were 86 per cent more in April than the number listed in March, according to reports from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth; and the number of positions filled by the same agencies increased 83 per cent between March and April. Table No. 21 gives the figures.

Table No. 21	April,	March,	April,
	1921	1921	1920
Help wanted	4,886	2,625	11,846
Applicants Placed	3,715	2,025	8,084

The Associated Charities of Minneapolis reported only a 2 per cent decrease in the number of unemployed cared for between March and April. The decrease was entirely in resident families, for the number of destitute men without homes who received assistance was 19 per cent larger in April than in March. While these figures indicate a serious condition, as shown by the fact that normally there is a large decrease in applicants for charity between April and March, the situation is improv-The amount spent for relief of unemployed was \$1,470 in April as compared with \$2,867 in March, or a decrease of 49 per cent. This decrease was due to the fact that a large portion of the applicants for financial assistance who were registered in April found employment before the end of the month and immediately became self-supporting. The data given for the activities of the Associated Charities and Federal employment bureaus does not give the complete situation. The fact must be noted that a large proportion of the unemployed do not register with employment agencies but await the opening of the plants at which they were formerly employed.

Credit Conditions in the Ninth Federal Reserve District

The total accommodation extended to the district between April I and May 4 increased \$2,700,000, while 35 selected city banks in the larger cities reduced their requests for accommodation at the Federal Reserve Bank by \$200,000, indicating that country member banks absorbed nearly \$3,000,000 additional funds during the month. Between May 4 and May 18 the Federal Reserve Bank increased its accommodation to the district \$8,000,000 additional.

During April the reserve of this bank was reduced more than \$9,000,000 owing to the increased accommodation, redemptions of Federal Reserve notes, withdrawals of government deposits, and withdrawals of member banks' deposits, each of which totaled approximately two millions. In the two weeks between the 4th and 18th of May, the reserves of this Bank decreased more than two mil-

lion dollars, in spite of the fact that rediscounts secured during these two weeks from other Federal Reserve banks totaled practically 8 million dollars. There were no rediscounts from other Federal Reserve banks on April 1, or May 4.

In spite of this increase in demand for accommodation at this bank, interest rates were reduced slightly on agricultural, live stock, and commercial paper because the increase in loans was occasioned by the seasonal spring demand for funds and because other more fundamental circumstances seemed to warrant such a step.

The month of April witnessed a reduction of about 20 per cent in the flotation of commercial paper in this district, indicating that commercial firms were continuing an orderly reduction in inventories and merchandise carried with borrowed funds. This reduction in commercial paper is not peculiar to our district but is quite general.

Loans of representative city banks in this district exhibit a reduction of about 20 per cent when compared with April of a year ago. The percentages of reduction were largest in the holdings of bankers acceptances, cattle loans, notes of grain, milling, automobile, lumber and mercantile concerns, and in personal loans to bankers. The decreases were less in percentage than the average per cent of decline in the holdings of notes of investment or real estate firms and manufacturing concerns. There was an increase of about 2 per cent in the amount of loans made direct to banks which represents almost entirely an extension of aid to agriculture in this dis-Table No. 22 indicates for these loans the April figures of this year as a percentage of those of a year ago. It also indicates the percentage of the total loans made to each of these groups in April of this year.

Table No. 22	Percentage 1921 of 1920	Percentage Distribu- tion of Total in April 1921
Banks Bankers Investment and real estate Manufacturing Grain and milling Mercantile Lumber Automotive Cattle loans Banker's acceptances	102.0 74.9 87.7 94.5 60.7 78.9 69.8 66.1 43.3 16.8	27.1 7.1 15.2 10.4 13.7 14.5 6.4 4.9 .5
Total	80.3	100.0

The local market interest rates declined somewhat by May 15 as compared with April 15. There were reductions of one-half of one per cent in the customary rate charged by banks to customers for prime paper of 90 days or less, on loans to other banks secured by bills payable, on collateral-secured demand and 3-months' paper, and on cattle loans. Commercial paper receded a fraction. The dis-

count rates of the Federal Reserve Bank were reduced from 7 to 6½ per cent on agricultural or live stock paper, commercial paper, trade acceptances, and member banks' notes secured by other eligible notes as collateral. There were increases from 5½ to 6 per cent on notes of member banks secured by United States Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness. The rate on bankers' acceptances rediscounted for member banks, and on notes secured by Liberty Loan bonds or Victory notes, remained unchanged at 6 per cent. The changes became effective May 10.

Thirty-five selected member banks in the larger cities during the 33-day period ending May 4 experienced a decline in demand deposits of nearly 17 million dollars or 9 per cent. These banks sold United States securities during the same period totaling more than one million dollars, and reduced their collateral loans secured by United States Bonds or Notes by more than one-half million dollars. Their reserves at the Federal Reserve Bank were reduced by about two million dollars but vault cash was increased by about one-half million dollars.

The conditions in the Ninth District are to be contrasted with those prevailing in the twelve Federal Reserve districts of the United States. Between April 1 and May 4 the twelve Federal Reserve banks experienced a reduction in earning assets of 180 million dollars and during the first two weeks in May, an additional reduction of nearly 113 millions, while their total reserves increased nearly 100 million dollars during the same period.

The Investment Market

Reports received by this office from 17 of the largest and most representative concerns selling securities in this territory, indicate that their sales in April of this year were 123 per cent of March, and 92 per cent of April a year ago. April sales of municipal bonds and notes were almost double the sales of March and 139 per cent of a year ago, while the sales of corporation bonds and notes increased about 20 per cent, both as compared with March and with a year ago. Farm mortgage sales were 18 per cent less in April than in March and 42 per cent less than a year ago.

The confidence of the public as evidenced by their willingness to purchase stocks was much below that of a year ago although the April totals nearly doubled those of March. A similar tendency is shown in purchases of investment securities by bankers which were slightly larger in April than in March and slightly less than in April a year ago.

Sales of city mortgages were better than a year ago but not as favorable as a month ago. The pressure for investment funds and the unsettled conditions in real estate values have been reflected by an increase in the number of foreclosures in Hennepin County. There was an increase of 31 per cent in the number of foreclosures in April as compared

with March and an increase of 75 per cent as compared with April of a year ago. In the amounts involved in foreclosures April exhibited an increase of 37 per cent as compared with March and an increase of 363 per cent as compared with April a year ago. During the first four months of the year 1921, the number of foreclosures increased 24 per cent as compared with a similar period the preceding year.

Farm Finance

The federal government recently appropriated 2 million dollars for the purpose of making seed loans. Lending operations commenced about March 15. This work is now completed and the loans made to May 9 amounted to about \$1,900,000. This fund was found sufficient to make loans to all those who applied and could meet reasonable conditions. No loans were made to those who had yields of wheat in excess of 5 bushels to the acre last year and the sums advanced were strictly limited to the amounts actually needed for the purchase of seed regardless of other needs. Of the total loans made prior to May 9, one million dollars was placed in Montana, \$800,000 in North Dakota, and slightly less than \$100,000 in Idaho and Washington. This work was in charge of C. W. Warburton of the Department of Agriculture and his report of the loans in North Dakota and Montana by counties is shown in Table No. 23.

Table	No.	23	
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NORTH DAKOTA						
County	No.	Amount				
Adams	37	\$ 5,855.00				
Benson	28	4,230,00				
Billings	239	33,300.00				
Bottineau	525	85,564.00				
Bowman	52	6,089.00				
Burke	127	20,321.00				
Burleigh	120	16,199.50				
Divide	774	135,135.00				
Dunn	192	27,265.00				
Emmons	42	5,348.00				
Golden Valley	244	38,102,25				
Grant	47	6,777.00				
Hettinger	. 97	14,735.00				
Kidder	55	6,655,00				
	195	27,939.25				
McHenry	602	88,080,00				
McKenzie	99	14.590.00				
McLean	93					
Mercer	127	15,410.00				
Morton		15,812.00				
Mountrail	250	31,721.00				
Oliver	45	6,700.00				
Pierce	66	9,114.00				
Renville	254	42,459.00				
Rollette	48	6,310.00				
Sheridan	72	9,035.00				
Sioux	37	4,535.00				
Slope	77	9,870.00				
Stark	65	9,320.00				
Ward	214	31,627.00				
Wells	2	380.00				
Williams	458	67,763.00				
	5,283	\$796,241.00				

MONTANA							
County	No.		Amount				
Blaine	149	\$	13,810.00				
Broadwater	21		2,765.00				
Carbon	1		93.00				
Carter	30		2,495.00				
Cascade	70		7,625.00				
Choteau	432		53,625.00				
Custer	18		1,377.00				
Daniels	521		75,187.00				
Dawson	145		18,005.00				
Fallon	67 99		8,010.00 10.492.00				
Fergus	. 18		1.995.00				
Garfield	116		17,323.00				
Glacier	18		1,500.00				
Hill	1.210		168,996.00				
Jefferson	1,210		1,380.00				
Iudith Basin	i 6		2,183.00				
Lewis and Clark	iž		1,275.00				
Liberty	484		72,295.00				
McCone	300		34,442.00				
Musselshell	27		2,855.00				
Phillips	344		34,567.00				
Pondera	105		16,145.00				
Powder River	2		73.00				
Prairie	28		3,050.00				
Richland	274		41,045.00				
Roosevelt	324		43,029.00				
Rosebud	45		3,952.00				
Sheridan	516		79,479.00				
Stillwater	50		4,585.00 210.00				
Sweet Grass	3 125		15,080.00				
Teton	515		71,127.00				
Trensure	8		820.00				
Valley	1.143		165.831.00				
Wheatland	1,141		160.00				
Wibaux	152		22,565.00				
Yellowstone	41		4,250.00				
	7.441	<u> </u>	002 606 00				
	/, 7 71	Э.	,003,696.00				

Reports received by this office from representative firms that sell farm mortgages indicate that the sales effected in April were 18 per cent less than in March, 1921, and 42 per cent less than in April a year ago. The funds which are so badly needed for agricultural purposes appear therefore not to be forthcoming at the present moment as rapidly as the situation appears to require. Sales of Federal Farm Land Bonds apparently are being made entirely in the East as much higher rates of interest prevail in our district. Possibly the decline in farm mortgage sales is to be accounted for in the much higher rates now being paid than formerly on municipal bonds and corporation securities, both of which exhibit increases in the volume sold when compared with last month and when compared with a year ago.

The State of South Dakota through its rural credit board has been making loans on farm lands in that state. Table No. 24 is a summary of the loans on farm lands in that state from July 1, 1917 to December 1, 1920, and shows the number of loans made in each county, the number of acres held as security and the average amount loaned per acre. These loans have totaled over 29 million dollars.

Table No. 24			No. of	Average
		Amt. of	Acres in Each	Amount Loaned
	No. of Loans	Loaned	County Held	Per Acre in
County	in Eacl		as Security for Loans	Each County
Armstrong		\$ 5,000.00	1,120	\$ 4.46
Aurora	. 41	258,200.00	8,648	29.90
Beadle Bennett		1,361,300.00 75,200.00	42,899 12,293	31.73 6.10
Bon Homme	. 26	216,700.00	3,936	55.05
Brookings		1,643,000.00	34,823 28,328	47.21 26.06
Brown		738,400.00 706,000.00	30,433	22.86
Buffalo	. 55	276,200.00	18,349	15.05
Butte Campbell		159,000.00 220,600.00	12,085 16,959	13.15 13.00
Charles Mix	. 87	732,500.00	14,995	48.54
Clark	. 91 . 24	576,000.00 187,200.00	18,389 2,799	31.21 66.88
Clay	. 29	189,200.00	5,570	33.94
Corson	. 102	173,400.00	27,468	6.34
Custer Davison	. 18 . 23	35,800.00 172,400.00	7,328 3,283	4.88 52.48
Day	. 161	784,400,00	28,977	27.06
Deuel	. 29 . 80	177,700.00 146,900.00	4,727 19,594	37.59 7.49
Dewey Douglas		27,000.00	525	51.43
Edmunds	. 94	411,800.00	21,868	18.83
Fall River Faulk		33,900.00 492,700.00	6,398 28,434	5.37 17.21
Grant	. 41	257,800.00	8,261	31.20
Gregory Haakon		1,052,700.00 860,800.00	45,481 148,900	23.05 5.84
Hamlin	. 13	94,100.00	2,597	36.23
Hand	. 327 . 39	1,606,500.00 315,100.00	79,279 6,778	20.02 45.01
Harding	0/1	422,200.00	94,651	4.46
Hughes	. 101	369,000.00	31,530 3,729	11.38
Hutchinson Hyde		185,500.00 408,500.00	32,732	49.71 12.48
Jackson	. 158	282,150.00	41,036	6.87
Jerauld Jones	~ ~ .	948,900.00 621,300.00	55,742 86,542	17.02 7.18
Kingsbury	. 140	971.300.00	25,814	37.52
Lake		460,200.00 121,900.00	9,433 8,507	48.78 14.32
Lincoln		430,100.00	6,805	63.20
Lyman	. 104	298,800.00	36,728	8.13
McCook McPherson		258,200.00 178,800.00	5,672 9,897	45.52 18.06
Marshall	. 76	387,700.00	15,247	25.42
Meade Mellette		418,400.00 269,700.00	84,013 42,602	4.98 6.33
Miner	. 114	809,900.00	18,516	43.74
Minnehaha Moody	. 72 . 28	530,000.00 224,100.00	9,827 4,291	53.93 52.22
Pennington		255,300.00	41,860	6.09
Perkins		1,010,400.00	185,360 6,291	5.45
Potter		99,500.00 463,100.00	16,010	15.81 27.23
Sanborn	. 88	577,700.00	15,795	36.05
Shannon	* ^ 7	1,000.00 1,215,500.00	160 40,4 01	6.25 30.08
Stanley	000	351,100.00	61,473	5.71
Sully		480,800.00 23,500.00	37,173 2,496	12.93 9.41
Todd	440	790,000.00	51.366	15.30
Turner	. 28	206,300.00	4.311	47.85 65.27
Union		246,800.00 123,000.00	3,781 6,789	65.27 18.11
Washabaugh	. 35	102,400.00	15,864	6.46
Yankton Ziebach		272,400.00 326,300.00	4,986 56,285	54.63 5.79
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Total	7,168	\$29,102,250.00	1,865,239	\$15.60